

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed 15 November 2007, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-25. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e); has allowed claims 3-18 and 21-25; and has objected to claims 10 and 11.

No claims are amended. Claims 1-25 remain pending.

The rejection is respectfully traversed below and reconsideration is requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee *et al.* (US 7,119,549). The rejection is based on a mistaken interpretation of the Lee *et al.* reference. In particular, the Examiner has interpreted the paragraph in Lee *et al.* spanning column 5, line 59 to column 6, line 4, as describing an adjustment of the phase, in the sense of the timing of a signal relative to a periodic reference. This is clearly mistaken. The cited paragraph is reproduced as follows:

Returning to the integrated circuit device **230** FIG. **4**, in one embodiment, the transmit circuits **242** within the I/O 60 circuits **211** are calibrated at system startup through an initial sequence of calibration operations and thereafter through periodic calibration operations to compensate for drift caused by changes in voltage and temperature. Each calibration operation is controlled by a sequence of commands 65 and includes a compare phase to determine whether the calibration value is to be incremented or decremented, and

an update phase in which the calibration value is incremented or decremented according to the determination of the compare phase. Other calibration protocols may be used in alternative embodiments.

The term “phase” in this paragraph must be interpreted as carrying the definition:

“Main Entry: ² phase ...

Function: noun

...

2 a : a stage or interval in a development or cycle : a subdivision or an activity or operation on the basis of time, place, or accomplishment <the assembly *phase* of production -- *adv*> <the way children develop and the different *phases* they go through -- Dorothy Barclay> <the final *phase* of a war> <addition of a left-turn *phase* to the ... intersection traffic light -- *Amarillo (Texas) Sunday News-Globe*> **b :** an aspect or part (as a situation or activity) being subjected to consideration <the moral *phase* of the problem -- John Dewey> <engaged in several *phases* of transportation in the course of his career -- *Current Biography*> <monographs which take up special *phases* of life within the localities -- C.L.Jones>”

("phase." Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged. Merriam-Webster, 2002. <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com> (2 Jan. 2008)).

In fact, the Lee *et al.* reference only describes calibration of signal levels represented by the current or voltage asserted by a transmit driver circuit, as illustrated in Fig. 5. See, Lee *et al.*, column 5, lines 18-58. The process described in Lee *et al.* adjusts the drive current (or voltage) in a two phase process, including a first “compare phase” in which the circuit determines whether to increment or decrement the calibration value for the controlled drive current, and a second “update phase” in which the calibration value is changed. See, also, Lee *et al.*, column 4, line 12; column 4, lines 34-67, describing adjustment of “signal levels”. Lee *et al.* does not discuss calibration of a timing parameter.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 19 and 20 as amended is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-18 and 21-25

The Examiner has allowed claims 3-18 and 21-25. No amendments have been made to such claims.

Objection to Claims 10 and 11

The Examiner has objected to claims 10 and 11 as being dependent upon an objected to claim, but he has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration is requested in light of the allowability of the base claims, argued above.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to claims 10 and 11 as amended is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee determined to be due in connection with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (RBUS 1309-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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